

CLAIMS

What is claimed as being new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is as follows:

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1. An ice fishing hole cover device for use in minimizing ice formation over an existing open ice fishing hole and for use in convenient rapid disassembly of said device, said device comprising:
 - a pair of upper panels, each upper panel having a generally rectangular shape with two opposing horizontal side edges, an inside edge, and an outside edge, said horizontal side edges of each upper panel are substantially parallel to each other, each horizontal side edge of each upper panel having a width;
 - a plurality of quick release locks, each lock comprising a first part and a complementary matching second part, wherein said first and second parts of each lock are releaseably interlocked together;
 - a pair of end panels, each end panel having a generally rectangular shape with two vertical edges and two horizontal edges, each vertical edge of each end panel having a width and having at least one of said first parts of said plurality of locks attached to each vertical edge of each end panel, whereby each end panel having at least two of said first parts of said plurality of locks attached to each end panel; and
 - a pair of side panels slidably attached to said pair of end panels and slidably attached to said pair of upper panels forming said device having a centrally disposed hollow chamber, each side panel having a generally rectangular shape, each side panel including:
 - a pair of vertical dados entrenched into opposing vertical side edges in a common face of each side panel, said pair of vertical dados in each side panel are substantially parallel to each other, each vertical dado having a width equal to or greater than the width of each vertical edge of each end panel, each vertical dado having at least one of said second parts of said plurality of locks attached to each vertical dado, whereby each side panel having at least two of said second parts of said plurality of locks; and
 - a horizontal dado entrenched into a horizontal top edge into the common face of each side panel, said horizontal dado of each side panel is substantially

perpendicular to said pair of vertical dados of each side panel, said horizontal dado of each side panel having a width equal to or greater than the width of each horizontal side edge of each upper panel,

wherein when said pair of side panels are slidably attached to said pair of end panels then said first and second parts of each lock of said plurality of locks are interlocked together.

2. The device of Claim 1 further comprising a candle holder mounted within the centrally disposed hollow chamber of said device.

3. The device of Claim 1 further comprising a candle mounted within the centrally disposed hollow chamber of said device.

4. The device of Claim 1 further comprising a strap attached around said device.

5. The device of Claim 1 wherein said inside edge of each upper panel has a concave sleeve attached to each inside edge of each upper panel, when said inside edges of said pair of upper panels are abutted together then said concave sleeves of said inside edges of said upper panel define a fish line orifice extending into the centrally disposed hollow chamber of said device.

6. The device of Claim 1 wherein said outside edge of each upper panel having an arcuate curved collar traversing through said outside edge of each upper panel, said arcuate curved collar defining a handgrip in each upper panel.

7. The device of Claim 1 wherein each first part of each lock of said plurality of quick release locks comprises a male dimple protrusion, and each second part of each lock of said plurality of quick release locks comprises a complementary female dimple crevice.

8. The device of Claim 1 wherein each first part of each lock of said plurality of quick release locks comprises a female dimple crevice, and each second part of each lock of said plurality of quick release locks comprises a complementary male dimple protrusion.

9. The device of Claim 1 wherein said strap is selected from the group consisting of an elastic band, a rope, a string, a cotton cord, a jute cord, a leather belt, and a nylon cord.

10. The device of Claim 1 wherein said panels are made from a polymeric material

selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl chloride, polyester, polypropylene, polyurethanes, polyacryls, polymethacryls, cellulosic polymers, styrene-acryl copolymers, polystyrene-polyacryl mixtures, polysiloxanes, urethane-acryl copolymers, siloxane-urethane copolymers, polyurethane-polymethacryl mixtures, silicone-acryl copolymers, vinyl acetate polymers, and mixtures thereof.

11. The device of Claim 1 wherein said panels are made of wood selected from the group consisting of ash, aspen, birch, elm, fir, locust, maple, oak, pine, and walnut.

12. A kit for assembling an ice fishing hole cover device for use in minimizing ice formation over an existing open ice fishing hole and for use in convenient rapid disassembly of the device, said kit comprising:
- a pair of upper panels, each upper panel having a generally rectangular shape with two opposing horizontal side edges, an inside edge, and an outside edge, said horizontal side edges of each upper panel are substantially parallel to each other, each horizontal side edge of each upper panel having a width;
 - a plurality of quick release locks, each lock comprising a first part and a complementary matching second part, wherein said first and second parts of each lock are releaseably interlockable together;
 - a pair of end panels, each end panel having a generally rectangular shape with two vertical edges and two horizontal edges, each vertical edge of each end panel having a width and having at least one of said first parts of said plurality of locks attached to each vertical edge of each end panel, whereby each end panel having at least two of said first parts of said plurality of locks attached to each end panel; and
 - a pair of side panels slidably attachable to said pair of end panels and slidably attachable to said pair of upper panels, wherein when said pair of side panels are slidably attached to said pair of end panels and slidably attached to said pair of upper panels then said kit forms the device having a centrally disposed hollow chamber, each side panel having a generally rectangular shape, each side panel including:
 - a pair of vertical dados entrenched into opposing vertical side edges in a common face of each side panel, said pair of vertical dados in each side panel are substantially parallel to each other, each vertical dado having a width equal to or

greater than the width of each vertical edge of each end panel, each vertical dado having at least one of said second parts of said plurality of locks attached to each vertical dado, whereby each side panel having at least two of said second parts of said plurality of locks; and

a horizontal dado entrenched into a horizontal top edge into the common face of each side panel, said horizontal dado of each side panel is substantially perpendicular to said pair of vertical dados of each side panel, said horizontal dado of each side panel having a width equal to or greater than the width of each horizontal side edge of each upper panel, wherein when said pair of side panels are slidably attached to said pair of end panels then said first and second parts of each lock of said plurality of locks are interlocked together.

13. The kit of Claim 12 further comprising a candleholder.

14. The kit of Claim 12 further comprising a candle.

15. The kit of Claim 12 further comprising a strap wrapped around said pair of upper panels, said pair of end panels, and said pair of side panels.

16. The kit of Claim 12 wherein said inside edge of each upper panel having a concave sleeve attached to each inside edge of each upper panel, when said inside edges of said pair of upper panels are abutted together then said concave sleeves of said inside edges of said upper panel define a fish line orifice extending into the centrally disposed hollow chamber of said device

17. The kit of Claim 12 wherein said outside edge of each upper panel having an arcuate curved collar traversing through said outside edge of each upper panel, said arcuate curved collar defining a handgrip in each upper panel.

18. The kit of Claim 12 wherein each first part of each lock of said plurality of quick release locks comprises a male dimple protrusion, and each second part of each lock of said plurality of quick release locks comprises a complementary female dimple crevice.

19. The kit of Claim 12 wherein each first part of each lock of said plurality of quick release locks comprises a female dimple crevice, and each second part of each lock of said plurality of quick release locks comprises a complementary male dimple protrusion

20. A method of using a kit for assembling an ice fishing hole cover device for use in minimizing ice formation over an existing open ice fishing hole and for use in convenient rapid disassembly of the device, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining the kit comprising:

a pair of upper panels, each upper panel having a generally rectangular shape with two opposing horizontal side edges, an inside edge, and an outside edge, the horizontal side edges of each upper panel are substantially parallel to each other, each horizontal side edge of each upper panel having a width,

wherein the inside edge of each upper panel having a concave sleeve attached to each inside edge of each upper panel, when the inside edges of the pair of upper panels are abutted together then the concave sleeves of the inside edges of the upper panel define a fish line orifice extending into the centrally disposed hollow chamber of the device,

wherein the outside edge of each upper panel having an arcuate curved collar traversing through the outside edge of each upper panel, the arcuate curved collar defining a handgrip in each upper panel;

a plurality of quick release locks, each lock comprising a first part and a complementary matching second part, wherein the first and second parts of each lock are releaseably interlockable together;

a pair of end panels, each end panel having a generally rectangular shape with two vertical edges and two horizontal edges, each vertical edge of each end panel having a width and having at least one of the first parts of the plurality of locks attached to each vertical edge of each end panel, whereby each end panel having at least two of the first parts of the plurality of locks attached to each end panel;
and

a pair of side panels slidably attachable to the pair of end panels and slidably attachable to the pair of upper panels, wherein when the pair of side panels are slidably attached to the pair of end panels and slidably attached to the pair of upper panels then the kit forms the device having a centrally disposed hollow chamber, each side panel having a generally rectangular shape, each side panel including:

a pair of vertical dados entrenched into opposing vertical side edges in a common face of each side panel, the pair of vertical dados in each side panel are substantially parallel to each other, each vertical dado having a width equal to or greater than the width of each vertical edge of each end panel, each vertical dado having at least one of the second parts of the plurality of locks attached to each vertical dado, whereby each side panel having at least two of the second parts of the plurality of locks; and a horizontal dado entrenched into a horizontal top edge into the common face of each side panel, the horizontal dado of each side panel is substantially perpendicular to the pair of vertical dados of each side panel, the horizontal dado of each side panel having a width equal to or greater than the width of each horizontal side edge of each upper panel, wherein when the pair of side panels are slidably attached to the pair of end panels then the first and second parts of each lock of the plurality of locks are interlocked together;

a candle holder;

a candle; and

a strap;

stacking together the pair of upper panels, the pair of end panels, and the pair of side panels to form a stack of panels when the pair of upper panels are next to each other so that each handgrip of each upper panel of said pair of upper panels is adjacent to each other;

wrapping the strap around the stack of panels and through each handgrip to form a wrapped panel package;

hoisting the wrapped panel package to an area near the existing open ice fishing hole;

removing the strap wrapped around the stack of panels;

coupling slidably together the vertical edges of the pair of end panels into the vertical dados of the pair of side panels to form a generally rectangular walled structure;

pushing together the pair of side panels coupled to the pair of end panels to lock together the plurality of locks;

inserting slidably the two opposing horizontal side edges of each upper panel into the

horizontal dados of the pair of side panels of the locked rectangular walled structure to form the device;

placing the device over the existing open ice fishing hole;

dropping a fishing line through the centrally disposed hollow chamber of the device and into the existing open ice fishing hole;

affixing together the candle to the candle holder;

lighting the candle affixed to the candle holder with a flame;

positioning the burning candle affixed to the candle holder within the centrally disposed hollow chamber of the device onto ice near the ice fishing hole;

abutting together the inside edges of the upper panels together to form the fish line orifice extending into the centrally disposed hollow chamber of the device;

stringing the fishing line through the fish line orifice;

attaching a spring flag apparatus to the fishing line;

mounting pivotally the spring flag apparatus on top of the device over the fish line orifice of the device;

lowering pivotally the mounted spring flag apparatus;

letting the spring flag apparatus to pivotally raise up when a fish gets hooked onto the fishing line and subsequently pulls on the fishing line;

sliding off the upper panels from the device;

uncoupling slidably the pair of side panels away from the pair of end panels, wherein said steps of sliding and uncoupling result in unassembling the device from over the existing open ice fishing hole; and

reeling in the hooked fish from existing open ice fishing hole subsequent to said steps of sliding and uncoupling.